

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Divisional of Patent Application Serial No. 09/434,565, filed November 12, 1999

Applicants : OGATA, Masami *et al.*  
Title : Image Processing Apparatus and Image Processing Method  
Art Unit : 2624 (Parent Application)  
Examiner : CHEN, Wenpeng (Parent Application)

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Chiaki Kokka

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 26.